

# Very Interesting People



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## Embassy Row Knew The CIA's Secret

CIA director Richard Helms and his wife of 28 years have separated.

No legal steps have been taken, but friends of the couple say a reconciliation is unlikely.

Helms, who is 54, moved out of his house at 3901 Fessenden St. at the end of June. He is living at the Chevy Chase Club.

"He simply packed and left," said one source close to both the Helmses. "And he has given no indication that he intends to come back."

Mrs. Helms reportedly has been slow to adjust to what has been described as "a period of heart-break and wretchedness" for her.

She has not yet decided to file for divorce despite the fact that she has just returned from Mexico, where a "quickie" decree would have been possible. The trip was merely a visit with one of her children. She had been married previously.

The Helmses have a son, Dennis, who is 25. He is now visiting with his mother at the house here. With his wife, he expects to remain until he hears from his draft board. A recent University of Virginia law school graduate, he has just undergone his physical for reclassification.

The Helmses' estrangement has been one of the best-kept secrets along Embassy Row for several weeks. Many top-ranking ambassadors, as close personal friends of the couple, were privy to the information before it became generally known.

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Lyndon Johnson took Lyndon Nugent to Lyndon Valenti's birthday party on Sunday night.

The President arrived at Motion Picture Association president Jack Valenti's house carrying his grandson proudly on his shoulder. The only time he put him down all evening was to have a dish of ice cream and cake. And even then, he kept Lyn stretched out on the sofa beside him.

When it came time for Lyn to have his bottle, it was his grandfather who gave it to him.

As he has done previously, the Chief Executive complained fondly because Lyn is such a sleepy-head. He wanted to show him off, but the baby snoozed constantly through the noisy hilarity of 25 other small children and refused to open his eyes.

"It's your fault," Luci told her father teasingly. "He's exhausted every time he gets around you. He never gets that much exercise otherwise. You bounce him, tickle him, tease him, squeeze him—he's just plain tired!"

The Nugents accompanied the Johnsons to the party. It marked John Lyndon Valenti's first birthday and he celebrated it jointly with Venezuelan Ambassador and Mrs. Enrique Tejera Paris' year-old son, Gonzalo. The two little boys were christened together last summer.

It couldn't have been accidental that Lyn Nugent was wearing a blue suit embroidered with a tiny elephant.

President Johnson and the Nugents have a running joke about elephants.

It all started when Patrick Nugent, who is from a Republican family, used the GOP's pachyderm mascot as an example when he was giving reporters a description of his new baby's size.

Mr. Johnson chided his son-in-law publicly about the incident.

When the President spotted an elephant on Lyn's shirt on Sunday night, he laughingly covered it with his hand so that it would not show up in any of the photographs being taken of the event.

## Potomac Potpourri

Presidential Assistant and Mrs. Douglass Cater can never get out of reach of the Signal Corps telephone operators at the White House. But they're going to try to escape the rest of the world at a weekend hideaway just purchased in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley . . . Postmaster General Larry O'Brien's wife was lamenting to White House Press Secretary George Christian's wife recently that Administration officials work so hard that they never have time to go to any of the glamorous events to which they get invited. "We won't ever be able to go until we get out of public life and then when that happens people will have stopped asking us." . . . WRC station manager Noyes Scott won \$3000 at the race track recently by betting the numbers of houses in which he had lived . . . Library of Congress poet James Dickey and his friends will be fighting the Civil War all over again at a party at his Leesburg house Aug. 12. His brother, Atlanta insurance agent Thomas Dickey, is a noted collector of buried battlefield booty left behind by Confederate and Union soldiers. He once went to jail for trespassing with his Geiger counter and now has nine tons of loot stashed in his basement . . . The Mrs. Gerald Van Der Kemp featured in Vogue this issue in pages and pages of color pictures formerly lived in Washington. She is now married to the curator of Versailles (who is being featured in the chi-chi fashion magazine because of his glorious restoration job for De Gaulle on the Grand Trianon). She was previously married to the late Donald Downs, owner of the Saville book shop in Georgetown . . . Women's Wear Daily is getting ready to come out with an "Ear" to match their gossipy "Eye." They never intended their slogan to be "Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil."